

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8458

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK MEETS OPPOSITION LEADER

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PARK RECEIVED OPPOSITION LEADER
YU CHIN- SAN AT BLUE HOUSE JUNE 21. NEWS REPORTS OF THEIR
MEETING FOCUSED ON DOMESTIC POLITICS, BUT WE BELIEVE ITS
MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY
CHANGES. END SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 21, PRESIDENT PARK RECEIVED YU CHIN- SAN, NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT, FOR TWO HOURS OF TALKS AND
LUNCHEON AT THE BLUE HOUSE. BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID
FTRWARDS THAT PARK AND YU " HAD A WIDE RANGING AND FRANK
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF SOUND PARTY POLITICS."

2. YU DESCRIBED TO REPORTERS SOME POINTS HE HAD RAISED
AND PRESIDENT' S RESPONSE THERETO AS FOLLOWS:

A. YU RECOMMENDED THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING
COMMITTEES MEET FREQUENTLY OUTSIDE OF PLENARY ASSEMBLY
SESSIONS. HE SAID PRESIDENT " DID NOT DISAGREE."

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B. YU URGED AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION LAW TO RESTORE OPPOSITION POLL WATCHERS. PRESIDENT SAID HE BELIEVED ALL ALONG THAT LAW SHOULD PERMIT OPPOSITION OBSERVERS BUT HE HAD LET THOSE AROUND HIM HAVE THEIR WAY.

C. YU RECOMMENDED AN ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC ROLE FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN AND POINTED OUT THAT OPPOSITION MEMBERS COULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL. HE DID NOT DESCRIBE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE.

3. EARLIER, YU RECEIVED VISITS ON JUNE 20 FROM PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL AND ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KOWN.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PRESS EMPHASIZED DOMESTIC ASPECT OF PARK-YU TALKS, WE BELIEVE MAJOR PURPOSE WAS TO ENLIST OPPOSITION SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES. REPORTS OF SUCH CHANGES HAVE BEGUN TO CIRCULATE WIDELY IN SEOUL. FOR YU, MEETING WITH PARK IS GRATIFYING PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION. DECLAS 7/1/74.

HABIB

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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